

North Cumberland Fire District Board of Trustees

Minutes of February 15, 2012 Meeting

Present: Philip Koutsogiane, Chair Others: Ghislaine Therien, Clerk

Michael Spaziani, Vice Chair Robert Murray, Treasurer

John Patrick McCoy Martin Klara, Tax Collector

Harry MacDonald Chief Brian Jackvony

Paul Lindquist Excused:

Brian Campbell

Matthew Gannon

Duane Guenard

OPENING

Chairman called to order the regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) at 7:03 p.m.

CLERK'S REPORT- January 18, 2012 Meeting

Motion made by Mr. Spaziani and seconded by Mr. Lindquist to accept the January 18, 2012 Minutes as presented. Motion carried by all present.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

TREASURER'S REPORT — January 2012

Mr. Murray submitted his report and highlighted the following:

NCFD Payroll and Overtime

- January payroll was \$63,704.98; Overtime was \$19,778.84. YTD**

payroll is \$454,130.88/OT \$149,648.88

- **Percent of total expenses through January 14.42%**
 - **Total expenses through January \$1,037,596.00**
 - **No salary paid to Chief for September/October/November/January**
- Month of January 2012 P/L**

Income/Revenue:

- **\$1,777,704.19 YTD taxes collected**
- **Interest income \$3,182.04 YTD**
- **Various Fees \$1,683.13 YTD**

Expenses:

- **Total expenses for month \$130,525.48**
- **BC/BS \$130,798.93 YTD**
- **Total expenses YTD \$1,037,596.60**
- **YTD on schedule**
- **43.84% of budget remaining**

January 2012 YTD Profit and Loss

- **Total Savings/Cash \$1,232,701.96**
- **Total Assets \$3,058,494.62**
- **Taxes Receivable \$380,510.66 (reflects all taxes owed as of 1/12 estimate)**
- **RI State Pension \$5,733.45**
- **Lease Obligation \$310,792.05**
- **Total Liability & Equity \$3,058,494.62**
- **Net Income \$744,972.75 (reflects aggregate income through January)**

Motion made by Mr. McCoy and seconded by Mr. MacDonald to

accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried by all present.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT — January 2012

- Taxes collected \$39,834.76/ytd total \$1,780,330.42**
- Fees collected \$285.71**
- Checks returned \$0**
- Monies retained by Attorney Baker this month \$0**
- \$22,858.60 total due prior years taxes**

Mr. Klara informed the Board he sent out secondary tax bills to those residents with a past due amount. He also presented to the Board a printout listing taxpayers who are in arrears or not adhering to their payment agreement. Chair also emailed to members an excel spreadsheet prepared by Attorney Baker with resident information. Mr. MacDonald suggested the two lists should be merged into one master list. He also suggested a letter should be prepared by Attorney Baker and sent to all who are in violation of their repay agreement requesting payment in full or they would be advertised for a secondary tax sale. Mr. Klara will contact Attorney Baker regarding sending out letters. He also stated there are only 25-30 open accounts.

Mr. Klara also informed the Board that when the Town of Cumberland purchases properties at tax sale the property becomes tax exempt from fire district taxes. If the Town does not foreclose (rights of redemption) they cannot resell the property and have limited rights.

Mr. MacDonald asked if a consolidated list could be available at the March meeting combining both Mr. Klara and Attorney Baker's information regarding past due accounts. Mr. Klara will contact Attorney Baker.

Motion made by Mr. Lindquist and seconded by Mr. Spaziani to accept the Tax Collector's report as presented. Motion carried by all present.

CHIEF'S REPORT/MONTHLY EXPENDITURES

Deputy Chief presented the Chief's monthly report for January 2012 and highlighted the following:

Emergency Calls:

- The North Cumberland Fire Department responded to 113 incidents in the month of January. This represents 8 fewer than the same month in 2011.**

Personnel/Equipment:

- Firefighter Ferreira attended ventilation training/Conducted walk through of several district occupancies/Truck company ops with station 4 personnel/Pvt.Garon and Capt. Delisle returned to duty/Personnel beginning EMT refresher training.**

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Buildings/Grounds:

 Repair small apparatus bays electric eye

 Hand rail repaired.

Equipment:

- Repaired fire extinguisher trainer/Ground ladders inspected by personnel/New EMS bags replaced in service/Cybercom reprogrammed all station radios and pagers.
- Truck 5 – rear springs and u-joint repaired
- Brush 51 - Triton Fleet to service oil leak and injectors.

Motion made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Gannon to accept the Chief's report as presented. Motion carried by all present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes:

- Mr. McCoy had first meeting to start budget preparation process. Asked Chief for initial figures.

- Yearly audit moving ahead.

Apparatus/Buildings/Grounds

- Nothing to report

Personnel/Labor Relations

- Nothing to report

Negotiations

- Nothing to report

Labor Management

- Nothing to report

Consolidation

- Will report under Old Business

OLD BUSINESS

Update of Sharing Services with Valley Falls Fire District

- Waiting for Valley Falls contract to be finalized and signed

- **Need to update Chief's agreement.**

Fire Districts Consolidation update

Retired Cumberland Hill Fire Chief Susi's Plan

- **Mr. Lindquist received an email from Chief Susi with his proposal. Some Board members could not open the attachment. Mr. Spaziani concurred with contents of Chief Susi's plan. Consolidation meetings are not structured or organized.**
- **Mr. Lindquist stated he was disappointed the Town did not bring anything for discussion to the consolidation meetings. Next scheduled meeting is February 28th. Several budgets have been presented and the committee needs to step-up to address issues.**
- **Chairman Koutsogiane would like the Board to have a more active voice if we participate in the meetings.**

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Hydrant Fees

- **Should the Board go before the Town Council or ask a State Representative to sponsor legislation allowing Cumberland to abolish the payment of fire hydrant fees? Valley Falls recently passed a resolution abolishing said hydrant payment. Providence and Pawtucket are exempted from paying the fees. Chairman Koutsogiane inquired if the members want to contact a State representative and ask if they would sponsor a bill or law to exempt the North Cumberland Fire District from paying Town hydrant fees.**

Mr. MacDonald made a Motion for a Board member to go before the Town Council and ask that they pass a Resolution asking a State representative to sponsor legislation exempting the North Cumberland Fire District from paying Town hydrant fees. Motion seconded by Mr. Spaziani. Motion carried by all present.

Miscellaneous

- Chief informed the Board that the windows on the second floor of the station need to be replaced and he will apply for grant monies. He has two bids in hand. The Board authorized the Chief to go forward with window replacement using grant funds.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bielek

He has been a district resident for 23 years. His Fire District bill has quadrupled since he has lived on Nate Whipple Highway. Because his income has been reduced and economics, it has been difficult for him to pay his taxes. His 2009 bill increased 18.3% and then 7% after that. The District cannot keep increasing the annual bill. Chairman Koutsogiane informed Mr. Bielek that he has only been on the Board since July of 2011. The economy is affecting everyone and the Board looks closely at all monies they spend to try and keep the budget as low as possible. There is a cap on the budget that it now cannot exceed a 3% increase. The Board is watching all its expenditures but need to meet staffing requirements.

Arthur Lamb

Mr. Lamb is frustrated by Valley Falls not having a signed contract. Is the Fire Marshall position being eliminated? What is status of pension contributions? Mr. McCoy replied that a memo dated January 25th with revised rates was sent to the North Cumberland Fire District– 8% employee/16.9% employer.

Regarding consolidation of the districts, taxpayers want to consolidate and lower their tax bills. Perhaps budget cuts need to be made to make it work or consider use of part time staffing and a town wide program.

Blains Labelle, 140 Little Pond County Road, Cumberland, RI

He purchased his house in 2002 has been paying taxes to two districts. Spoke with Mr. Klara and he advised coming to the Board meeting to try and clarify the situation. Cumberland Fire District claims he is in their district – should only be paying taxes to one district. Chairman Koutsogiane stated he drove by the property and looked at a town map showing the boundary lines. He felt property was in North Cumberland district. Mr. Labelle informed the Board he paid taxes to the NCFD in 2003, 2004 and 2009. Chairman Koutsogiane informed Mr. Labelle that he would look further into the matter and get back to him. He also gave Mr. Labelle his contact information.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Lindquist and seconded by Mr. McCoy to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by all present. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ghislaine D. Therien, Clerk